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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/673,386	09/30/2003	Tatsuya Araki	D-1534	3748
32628	7590	10/05/2004	EXAMINER	
HAUPTMAN KANESAKA BERNER PATENT AGENTS SUITE 300, 1700 DIAGONAL RD ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-2848				KAO, CHIH CHENG G
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2882				DATE MAILED: 10/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/673,386	ARAKI ET AL. <i>Arv</i>	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Chih-Cheng Glen Kao	2882	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 2-8 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 30 September 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informality. On Page 10, line 23, “above the spring” is recited. It appears that when the hook 12 is away from the pin 10, the axis 13 of the hook 12 is located below the spring, not above the spring. This objection may be obviated by replacing “above” with - -below- -. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1, 4, and 7 are objected to because of the following informalities, which appear to be minor draft errors creating grammatical problems.

In the following format (location of objection; suggestion for correction), the following suggestions may obviate their respective objections: (claim 1, line 3, “on the carriage for irradiating X-ray”; replacing “X-ray” with - -X-rays- -), (claim 1, line 10, “released state that the storage box locking means”; inserting - -so- - before “that”), (claim 4, line 3, “in a direction that the hook engages”; inserting - -so- - before “that”), (claim 4, line 4, “in a direction that the hook moves”; inserting - -so- - before “that”), (claim 7, line 3, “in a direction that the hook engages”: inserting - -so- - before “that”), and (claim 7, line 4, “urging the hook in a direction that”; inserting - -so- - before “that”).

For purposes of examination, the claims have been treated as such. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morasse (US Patent 6126314) in view Applicant's admission of prior art (AAPA).

Morasse discloses X-ray equipment comprising a carriage (Fig. 2, #1), an x-ray source on the carriage (col. 3, lines 1-4), and a cassette storage box pivotally attached to the carriage for storing a cassette with a radiographic storage medium (Abstract and Fig. 2, #7).

However, Morasse does not disclose storage box locking means engaging a cassette storage box for locking the cassette storage box in a locked state and locking release holding means attached to the storage box locking means for holding the storage box locking means in a released state so that the storage box locking means is released from the locked state.

AAPA teaches storage box locking means engaging a cassette storage box for locking the cassette storage box in a locked state (Fig. 8, #53 and 54) and locking release holding means attached to the storage box locking means for holding the storage box locking means in a released state so that the storage box locking means is released from the locked state (Fig. 8, #55).

It would have been obvious, to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify the equipment of Morasse with the storage box locking means and the locking release holding means of AAPA, since one would be motivated to incorporate

these to better hold the container in place without opening unexpectedly (Figs. 8-10) as implied from AAPA.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 2-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claim 2, prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest an X-ray equipment including auto-lock switching means attached to storage box locking means for switching the storage box locking means from a released state to a locked state when a cassette storage box is closed, in combination with all the limitations in the claim and base claim. Claims 3-8 contain allowable subject matter by virtue of their dependency.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US Patent 5138160 discloses a storage box (Fig. 5, #48).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chih-Cheng Glen Kao whose telephone number is (571) 272-2492. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F (9 am to 5 pm).

Art Unit: 2882

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Glick can be reached on (571) 272-2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



gk



EDWARD J. GLICK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER